
May 2019

We Are **TEAM** Fort Garrison!

Technology

Environment

Accessing
Tomorrow

Motivated students
& teachers



Fort Garrison Elementary School

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Dr. Hope Baier, Principal
Kayla Denmyer, Assistant Principal

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MESSAGE FROM Dr. Baier

Dear Fort Garrison Families,

We are delighted that Spring has arrived, so we can look forward to the many exciting end of year events at Fort Garrison! The official last day of school will be Monday, June 17th. Wednesday, June 5th was originally designated as a professional learning day for teachers, however, due to the number of inclement weather days, schools will be in session for our students.

We have started PARCC testing and will continue this month for grades 3, 4, and 5. We are confident that our students will continue to demonstrate high achievement. Families can support students by giving them a healthy, hearty breakfast each morning and plenty of sleep the night before! If you have any questions about PARCC testing, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs. Denmyer, assistant principal.

Reports cards for the fourth marking period will be handed out to all students on the last day of school, June 17th. No report cards will be handed out prior to the last day. If your child is unable to be here on the 17th, please stop by school during the summer to pick up their report card.

Next year Fort Garrison will receive two regional programs into our building. We will receive a primary and intermediate Communication and Learning Support program (CALs). CALs programs are designed for

Upcoming Events

- May 6-10** Teacher Apprec. Week
- May 6** - PreK/KG Conf. Day
No PreK/KG Sessions
- May 7** - PreK Conf. Day – No PreK
- 4th & 5th Grade
Musical at 7:00 p.m.
- May 8** - School Nurse's Day
Food Service Staff Day
- May 13**-Kindergarten Field Trip to
The Maryland Zoo
- May 15**- M&T Bank Stadium Trip
- May 16**- Battle of the Books Final
- May 20**-PTA Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
- May 21**-5th Grade Field Trip to
Philadelphia
- May 24**-4th Grade Field Trip to
Karma Farms
- May 27**- Memorial Day –
Schools Closed
- May 29**-Instr. Music Concert-7p.m.
- May 31**-Movie Night

students with IEPs who have been diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. The primary CALS program will house students in kindergarten through second grade. The intermediate CALS program will house students in grades three, four and five. We are excited to welcome these new students into our school community.

We also look forward to welcoming our new kindergarten students as we registered over 40 students at our Kindergarten Round Up for next year. If you have a child who is eligible for kindergarten in the 2019-2020 school year (must be five years old by September 1st), please call the school and pick up registration materials. Additionally, if you are moving or your child will attend another school for the 2019-2020 school year, please contact the office so we can prepare transfer packets.

Thank you sending us such amazing students and for another fabulous year at Fort Garrison. Our entire staff is grateful to work with supportive and committed families to help all students achieve.

Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Dr. Hope Baier
Principal



COUNSELOR'S CORNER – Notes from Mrs. Lepley

The year is coming to a close- but we are not done yet! This month we will be focusing on educational and career choices. Students in kindergarten through 4th grade will be exploring different career choices and discussing how their skills and interests may lead them towards different career fields. 5th grade students will be starting a two-lesson unit on transitions to middle school. These lessons will review skills such as locker combinations, time management, scheduling, and differences between elementary school and middle school.

Students in Kindergarten and 1st grade have been learning about regulating emotions using the Zones of Regulation curriculum. We are learning coping skills for all kinds of emotions and feelings we may have during the school day and beyond. Did you know that self-control and emotional regulation are better predictors of future success than academic achievement?

Students in Ms. Nolan's 4th grade class have been learning Mindful Awareness using the Mind Up curriculum. I was piloting this with one group of students and plan to roll it out in grades 3-5 next year as a part of our school counseling lessons. Mindfulness is a practice that can help relieve anxiety, help kids learn to regulate emotions, and improve attention and focus in school as well. These are awesome life skills!

Our virtue for the Month of May is "Service" and for June is "Peacefulness". We will be working on learning more about how these virtues can help us grow in character.

Thank you for your support!

Kate Lepley
School Counselor

LIBRARY NOTES from Mrs. O'Donnell

This Month's News

As we near the end of the year, please be on the lookout in your home for any library books. The last day for checkout will be Friday, May 24th. After that, I will begin to send home notices to let you know which books are still checked out on your child's account. If you know a book has been lost, please contact Mrs. O'Donnell at lodonnell3@bcps.org to arrange to pay for a replacement. Remember you can see what books your child has checked out by going to Destiny through BCPSOne Digital Content.

Summer Reading Program @ BCPL

This summer, the Baltimore County Public Library will be holding their annual Summer Reading Program. This year's theme is "A Universe of Stories"! There will be activities at your local branch and prizes for reading. More information will be coming home about this program soon.

Reading over the summer can help students maintain their reading levels over the long break from school, so I encourage all FGES students to visit the local library and participate! Students in BCPS can check out up to 5 books with no fines by looking up their BCPS student number at the public library.

Battle of the Books

We recently held our playoff battle for the Battle of the Books competition. We had eight teams competing and they all did a fantastic job! Two of our teams, the Baltimore Book Boys and the Book Wizardz, will face off against Summit Park on May 16th at 6:30pm. All are welcome to attend and cheer on The Fort! I am so proud of all the students who participated. They worked so hard by reading, writing practice questions, and drilling each other on details from the books. These teams met at school during lunch to practice with each other and met outside of school to prepare. I am so proud of the dedication and sportsmanship showed by these students!

We will be participating in Battle of the Books again next year. We would love to have our 3rd and 4th graders participate! Look for more information next fall!

Mrs. O'Donnell
Librarian



MUSIC NOTES – Mrs. Case & Mr. Stojak

It's right around the corner! The **4th and 5th Grade** musical entitled, Joust! will be presented on Tuesday, May 7th at 7:00 p.m. Students should report by 6:45. Doors will open at 6:40. Emails regarding concert dress and other information have been forwarded by classroom teachers. Please contact Mrs. Case at scase@bcps.org if you have further questions.

Don't forget! We have two more concerts this year:

- On Wednesday, May 29th at 7:00, students in the Instrumental Music Program will present their culminating concert, and students in Third Grade will present recorder selections they have been

learning. **All students in Third Grade should be present for this concert. All students participating in the Instrumental Music Program should also attend.**

- Students in Kindergarten will sing for their families on Wednesday, June 5, at 7:00. We know it will be a fun evening for our youngest performers!

Mrs. Case and Mr. Stojak would like to thank the parents and families who have encouraged, supported, and reminded their students to practice their recorder/instrument and/or vocal part at home this year. Your help makes ALL the difference in each child's level of achievement in their musical endeavors.

The Music Department,

Stephanie Case
Brian Stojak

NEWS FROM BETH GRAPES – Physical Education



Student Banking at the Fox Branch

Our final banking day of the year was Friday, May 3rd. Thank you to all those families that have participated in the banking program this year. Just a reminder that an account can be setup any time during the school year. Please see Mrs. Grapes for an application. Also, special thanks to First Financial Federal Credit Union for providing our students with this opportunity, and Nalani J. for being our student bank teller for the year.

FUTP60

Our program continues to grow and gain momentum. In May the team members will visit classrooms to show students the www.fueluptoplay60.com website and share some of the challenges, collectibles and shout outs they have received. You can go on the website to get your student signed up at any time and when they complete challenges please be sure to include our team name, Fueling Up the Fort! Our school did receive Touchdown status for the first time this year with the FUTP60 program. We are very proud of our students' efforts to make this happen and we hope this is the first of many years to come!

Field Day

Field Day will be Friday, June 7th this year with a rain-date of Monday, June 10th. We need many volunteers to make this event a success so please use the following link to indicate when you can volunteer: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E4AAEA929A20-field3>. If you have any questions, please contact me at bgrapes@bcps.org.

Beth Grapes
Physical Education

Don't forget the following S-P-R-I-N-G actions!

SPRING ALLERGIES

As we move into the beauty of blooming trees, flowers, and grass, remember to make sure we have **inhalers and allergy medicine available, along with the doctor's order**, if your child needs it during the school day. Also, check your child's eyes in the morning as pink itchy eyes may just mean they need their allergy medications, but at school I may need to exclude them for possible bacterial **pink eye**.



PREPARING MEDICATION AND ORDERS FOR NEXT YEAR

If your student has had **orders for medication at school** this year, you will be receiving a letter about renewing the orders, and a new form for the 2019-2020 school year sometime this month. You may return the form the week before school starts so we are prepared for **next year's medication needs**. Make sure it is **dated after the last day of the present school year**, and remember **medication needs to come adult-to-adult**.

RETURNING HEARING AND VISION FORMS

Some of you have heard from me related to **Hearing and Vision Screening**. The screening is a valuable service provided by the Baltimore County Health Department. Please make sure you return the letter sent to you, with the bottom portion completed, indicating the **physician's findings upon further examination**.

INCOMING

For those of you who will have students entering **Kindergarten next year**, remember to complete your **health registration packet**, with special attention to immunizations. You will need to provide evidence from your health care provider of the following immunizations: 4 DTP, 3 Polio, 2 MMR, 2 Varicella, and 3 Hepatitis B vaccines. **Thanks to those of you who came to Kindergarten Registration so organized and prepared!**

NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Fifth grade students are entering that exciting time of thinking about transitioning to middle school. Many preparations are made to celebrate the culmination of their elementary years and begin the next phase of their lives. In keeping with this, Baltimore County Public Schools asks that students also begin with a fresh physical and dental exam. BCPS recently began requiring a **Tdap and a Meningococcal vaccine for 7th graders**. Fifth grade students will receive a **physical and dental form** along with an envelope. Look for these forms this month and after a current physical and dental exam, **mail them, or drop them off, at the middle school your child will be attending**. The forms may be completed by your doctor or dentist based on a recent exam as well.

GOOD HABITS

Don't forget to keep up those good habits – eating nutritiously, exercising, getting enough sleep, hand washing, cough and sneeze etiquette – it is so much easier for your children to develop good habits when they are young rather than wrestling with poor habits later. Enjoy the Spring weather!

If you have any questions about this information, feel free to call Catherine Caulk, School Nurse at 410-415-5738.

Catherine Caulk, RN, BSN
School Nurse



NEWS FROM the Fort Garrison PTA

We hope everyone is enjoying the beginning of Spring! It's so nice to be able to have fun events in the warmer months. Here are some events you won't want to miss out on:

- **Teacher Appreciation Week** is this week **May 6th thru May 10th**. Michelle Tepper and Carly Greenberg are working hard to make sure its memorable for our amazing teachers! This year they have decided to create beautiful flower arrangements from the parents. They are asking for parents to please send to school a flower or flowers from their garden on Thursday, May 9th.

Please have your child(ren) create a card or note for their teacher to bring to school on Friday, May 10th. Feel free to have your children create their own or see the example below of a cute idea. There will be something exciting planned for the teachers every day and some volunteer opportunities for parents to come in to help.

Thank You
For being a great teacher!

By: _____

My favorite thing about my teacher is

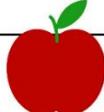
My teacher always says

My teacher likes when I

My favorite subject is

What I am going to miss most is

My favorite memory is

 
My Teacher

- The annual **plant sale** will be held on **Friday, May 10th**. Every student will choose a 4 ½" plant compliments of the PTA. Please send money in with your child on May 10th in a zip lock baggie with their name on it. We will have change available to give. Parents are more than welcome to come purchase plants after 3:30 p.m.

There are still many time slots available if you would like to help with the plant sale. We need help on Thursday, May 9th to help unload the truck from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Please click on the link below to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084aaca72fa4fc1-plant1>

- **Movie Night will be held Friday, May 31st**! Back by popular demand, movie night will be outside again this year. Bring your blankets and chairs and enjoy this free night with your family. The movie will be a surprise but will be sure to be a crowd pleaser. Light snacks will be served.

There are so many things that go on behind the scenes at the FORT. Thank you to everyone for making our job so easy! Just recently the yearbook was completed and sent to the printers! Thank you so much to Heather Crawford and Robin Holt! I can't wait to see the final product! Have you seen the beautiful flowers by the front door of the school? They're planted every few months by Anne Claire and we so appreciate all her hard work!

As always, please come to us if you would like to become more involved with the PTA. We love hearing new ideas and working with new faces. There is always something we need help with.

We hope to see you at the next PTA meeting on May 20th at 6:30 p.m.

See you at the FORT!

Amanda & Ashley
fortgarrisonpta@gmail.com



Bring A Water bottle
and Wear Tennis
shoes

Moving with Mom/Special Friend Walk

Meet in Basketball Court

Friday, May 10 8:40 A.M

**Fort Garrison Elementary
School**

**Wear Tennis Shoes/Bring Water
Bottle**

Walk begins at 8:45 A.M.